# UtahFutures.org Career Information System The system of t

## Plan and manage your career from grade school to retirement!

BY KIMBERLEY BARTEL, ECONOMIST

## UtahFutures.org

re you thinking of entering the workforce for the first time in many years? Are you tired of your job and believe you need a change? Have you lost your job and think you might want to do something different? Do you want to be involved in the career development process with your child?

If you answered "yes" to any of these questions, it would be worth your time to check out UtahFutures.org. This system has information and activities that can help you with all aspects of career and education development including self-assessments, information about jobs in demand, how to write a resume, and how to apply for financial assistance for school.

Your first step would be to go to the web site, www.utahfutures. org, and decide whether you want to register and create an account or just visit. If you want to create an account, simply click on the Utah Citizen icon and follow the easy instructions. Creating an account will give you

access to more assessments and allow you to save information.

It is helpful to take the assessments at the bottom left side of the page. You can take them and just observe your results, or if you have created a portfolio, you can save the results.

There are different types of assessments. A good one to check out is the skills assessment. It will help you understand your current skill set and how it might apply to other jobs. You may be surprised to see that your skills are transferable to many types of jobs you haven't thought about in the past!

The section called Job Search will assist you with finding a job. You can find information from how to choose an occupation to tips on interviewing to leaving your job gracefully. If you create an account, the system will help you create a resume that you can save in your portfolio.

The occupation information at the top of the left hand side of the page will give you information about specific jobs such as Utah wages and outlook information, information about the education and skills required, licensing information, and much more. It will give you a pretty clear picture of what is required for specific jobs.

The Employer Locator, on the lower right side, allows you to search for employers across the U.S. that are most likely to hire for specific occupations. It provides the employer's name, address, telephone number, and size.

Another important section focuses on getting financial assistance and scholarships. You can find local and national information that will help you figure out how to pay for any training or education you will need.

If you are interested in assisting your child, you can access the portfolio he/she created at school. Your child can take assessments, look at the Reality Check feature (how much will his/her desired lifestyle cost?), and investigate different occupations with you.

Utahfutures.org is there to help Utah citizens plan and manage their careers from grade school to retirement.  $\mathbf{7}$ 

### More Facts

#### **Income and Poverty**

- In the national 65 and older age group, 89 percent reported Social Security income, 55 percent reported income from assets, 29 percent reported income from private pensions, 14 percent reported income from government-employee pensions, and 24 percent reported earnings (2005).
- In 2005, Social Security benefits accounted for 37 percent of the total income of the older population.
- In the United States, the 2008 median household income where the householder is 65 or older measures \$33,800 compared \$52,000 for all households.
- In the Utah, the 2008 median household income where the householder is 65 or older measures \$40,300 compared \$56,600 for all households.
- Nationally, about 10 percent of the over-65 population were below the poverty level in 2008 compared to 13 percent of the total population.
- In Utah, about 7 percent of the over-65 population were below the poverty level in 2008 compared to 10 percent of the total population.
- U.S. older women had a higher poverty rate (9 percent) than older men (5 percent) in 2008.
- Utah women 65-and-over also showed higher poverty rates (6 percent) than did comparably aged men (3 percent).
- Older persons living alone were much more likely to be poor (17 percent) than those living with families (6 percent).
- The highest poverty rates were experienced among older Hispanic women who lived alone (41 percent) and older black women who lived alone (38 percent).
- Households maintained by older people have net worth higher than that of all other households except for those maintained by 55-64 year-olds, who held similar levels.